

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 9-14, and amend claims 4-6. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method for culturing neural stem cells comprising the step of culturing a neural stem cell or a population of cells comprising at least one neural stem cell in the growth medium ~~of claim 1~~ comprising (i) hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2), (ii) HGF and epidermal growth factor (EGF), or (iii) HGF, FGF-2 and EGF.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for proliferating neural stem cells comprising the step of culturing a neural stem cell or a population of cells comprising at least one neural stem cell in the growth medium ~~of claim 1 under conditions that allow the proliferation of the neural stem cell~~ comprising (i) hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2), (ii) HGF and epidermal growth factor (EGF), or (iii) HGF, FGF-2 and EGF.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for differentiating neural stem cells into a population of cells containing neurons and glia cells comprising the step of culturing a neural stem cell or a population of cells comprising at least one neural stem cell in the growth medium ~~of claim 1 under conditions that allow the differentiation of the neural stem cell into a population of cells containing neurons and glia cells~~ comprising (i) hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and fibroblast growth factor-2 (FGF-2), (ii) HGF and epidermal growth factor (EGF), or (iii) HGF, FGF-2 and EGF.

7. (Original) The method of any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the neural stem cell is derived from mammalian neural tissue selected from the group consisting of brainstem, cerebellum, cerebral cortex, midbrain, spinal cord and ventricular.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the neural stem cell is genetically modified.

9-14. (Canceled)